



# TOWN OF KILLINGLY

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## Testimony

### HB 6574 An Act Concerning Municipal Summer Camps

February 6, 2023

Submitted by Mary T. Calorio, Town Manager

Dear Members of the Committee:

As a community leader I write in **OPPOSITION** to HB 6574. Our community depends on affordable camp programming during the summer months. HB 6574 as proposed would significantly increase the cost to families which would make summer camp unaffordable. Below is a list of several concerns I share with many leaders across the State:

- Increase in cost for nursing and physician consultants. There is a shortage of individuals able to perform these functions. This would drive the cost of those services higher or even prevent a camp from operating.
- More pressure on the Office of Early Childhood background check system. The Town performs background checks on all staff. However, we do not utilize the OEC system. This bill would force all those background checks to be performed at a higher cost and would potentially overwhelm the OEC system. If background checks are not able to be performed timely, staff can not start work. This would leave camps unable to open and parents with no alternative for summer months.
- It is also unclear whether the Office of Early Childhood has the staff and resources to process licenses and perform the inspections required under the bill. Again, without these inspections, summer camps would not be able to open.
- Municipal youth camps that receive a state subsidy under the Care for Kids program are required to pass a health and safety inspection by the Office of Early Childhood and ensure that staff members complete orientation training and ongoing professional development, including health and safety training in First Aid, CPR and medication administration. As such the bill would impose duplicative standards on such programs.

Municipal summer camps are already subject to several layers of oversight on the local level, including full-time program coordinators, Recreation Directors, Town Managers, HR Directors and Town Councils. Municipal facilities are subject to oversight by the Fire Marshal, Building Official and local Health Department.

Although the bill is well-intentioned, HB-6574 will significantly increase costs for towns and campers, pricing families out of safe, affordable, convenient and enriching camp programs. I urge you to **OPPOSE** HB-6574.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.